

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). A method of receiving and handling an order from a customer using an order-reception system which is comprised of at least one computer and has an order-reception subsystem, business management subsystem and order-entry subsystem, comprising the steps of:

registering, by the order-reception subsystem, sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials and inquiry information to be displayed as Q&A information;

storing, in a sales-information database comprising a storage by the order-reception subsystem, BBS information to be posted on a BBS style page according to date and classification; the registered sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials according to date and classification; and the registered inquiry information to be displayed as the Q&A information according to date, context, and maker;

displaying, by the order-reception subsystem, the BBS information on the BBS style page;

displaying, by the order-reception subsystem, the sales-promotion materials;

receiving, by the order-reception subsystem, customer order information sent from the customer, said customer order information including customer information regarding the customer and at least one of ordering information representing contents of an order for a commodity ordered by the customer and support request information representing contents of a support request;

performing, by the order-reception subsystem, the order reception processing based on the received customer order information;

determining, by the order-reception subsystem, to deliver the commodity specified in the ordering information and to provide a support specified in the support information, based on a result of the order reception processing;

confirming, by the order-reception subsystem, whether the commodity is delivered and the support is provided; and

charging, by the order-reception subsystem, a price of the commodity specified in the ordering information and a cost of the support specified in the support request information, based on the customer information including information regarding a price of each commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of each support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by a seller of the commodity and support.

2 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
checking, by the order-entry subsystem, whether there is a stock of the commodity specified
in the ordering information based on stock information;
determining, by the order-entry subsystem, a delivery date for delivering the ordered
commodity; and
sending, by the order-entry subsystem, order-reception confirmation information including
delivery-date information representing the determined delivery date and the customer order
information to the customer either in a facsimile form or e-mail form.

3 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, ~~further including the steps of~~
wherein:
~~storing, in a storage, the Q&A information representing~~ represents the contents of inquiries
sent from the customer and the seller and the contents of responses to the inquiries, the inquiries
regarding commodities to be sold and supports to be provided; and further includes the step of
providing, by the order-reception subsystem, the Q&A information stored in the storage
sales-information database, in response to a request.

4 (currently amended). The method according to claim 3, further including the steps of:
gathering, by the business management subsystem, statistical data based on the customer
information and customer order information of each of a plurality of customers; and
reflecting, by the business management subsystem, the statistical data to the Q&A
information.

5 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein
the support request information includes information regarding a request for collecting
recyclable items including at least one of a used cartridge, a used toner container and used paper.

6 (currently amended). The method according to claim 5, wherein:
the order-reception system is further comprised of a delivery subsystem; and further
including comprising the step of
arranging, by the delivery subsystem, collection of used paper, in response to a support
request for collecting used paper from the customer when a used-paper collection box provided to
the customer is filled with used paper.

7 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the support request information includes information regarding a request for at least one of:

- a service for delivering the commodity to a place specified by the customer;
- a service for unpacking the ordered commodity at a time of delivery;
- a service for collecting an empty box that the customer does not need any more;
- a service for delivering commodities that are repeatedly supplied to the customer on a FIFO basis;
- a service for specifying a delivery date for delivering the commodity to be delivered;
- a service for urgently delivering the ordered commodity; and
- a service for periodically delivering a constant number of commodities specified by the customer.

8 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

storing, by the order-reception subsystem, in a storage in response to a customer registration operation of the seller, the customer information including information regarding a price of a commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by the seller; and

creating, by the order-reception subsystem, a purchase application form and a catalog based on the stored customer information, and providing the customer with the created application form and catalog.

9 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further including the step of

receiving, by the order-reception subsystem, the customer order information is sent from the customer through a telephone call or via facsimile.

10 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein;

the order-reception system is further comprised of a network-order-reception subsystem; and further including the step of

receiving, by the network-order-reception subsystem, the customer order information is sent from the customer through Internet.

11 (currently amended). The method according to claim 10, further including the step of

storing, by the order-reception subsystem, in a storage in response to a registration operation of the seller, the customer information including information regarding a price of a commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by the seller, and

wherein the customer information includes information representing that the customer is one who transmits the customer order information through the Internet.

12 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: assigning, by the order-reception subsystem, in a case where the customer has made a contract of maintenance service for one of a plurality of apparatus including OA apparatuses, a delivery of the commodity to a service person who can execute the maintenance service when it is determined to deliver the commodity specified in the ordering information; and

determining, by the order-reception subsystem, to execute a maintenance service based on the maintenance contract at a time of delivering the commodity, based on the customer information and customer order information.

13 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein:
the order-reception system is further comprised of a delivery subsystem; and further comprising the steps of:

arranging, by the delivery subsystem, delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information based on the customer order information, upon determination of the delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information and the providing of the support; and

instructing, by the delivery subsystem, a distributor to perform a support when delivering the commodity, in a case where the support is specified in the customer order information.

14 (currently amended). The method according to claim 13, further including the steps of: confirming, by the order-entry subsystem, whether there is a stock of the ordered commodity based on stock information;

determining, by the order-entry subsystem, a delivery date for delivering the ordered commodity;

sending, by the order-reception subsystem, to the customer, order-reception confirmation information including delivery-date information representing the determined delivery date and the customer order information in a facsimile form or e-mail form; and

arranging, by the delivery subsystem the delivery of the ordered commodity based on the delivery-date information and customer order information.

15 (currently amended). An order-reception system comprising:

an order-reception subsystem which receives customer order information sent from a customer, wherein the customer order information includes customer information regarding the customer and at least one of ordering information representing contents of an order for a commodity ordered by the customer and support request information representing contents of a support request;

a business management subsystem which has a customer information database storing the customer information regarding a price of a commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, and set by a seller; and

an order-entry subsystem which executes an order-reception processing based on the customer order information received by said order-reception subsystem,

wherein said order-reception subsystem

registers sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials and inquiry information to be displayed as Q&A information;

stores, in the sales-information database, BBS information to be posted on a BBS style page according to date and classification; the registered sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials according to date and classification; and the registered inquiry information to be displayed as the Q&A information according to date, context, and maker;

displays the BBS information on the BBS style page;

displays the sales-promotion materials;

determines to deliver the commodity specified in the ordering information and to provide the support specified in the support information, based on a result of the order reception processing[[,]]; and

confirms whether the ordered commodity is delivered and whether the support is provided;

and

~~charging charges~~ the price of the commodity and the cost of the support specified in the ordering information.

16 (currently amended). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein:

said order-entry subsystem confirms whether there is a stock of the commodity specified in the ordering information based on stock information, and determines a delivery date for delivering the ordered commodity; and

said order-reception subsystem sends order-reception confirmation information, including delivery-date information representing the determined delivery date and the customer order information, in a facsimile form or e-mail form.

17 (currently amended). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein

said ~~order-reception subsystem stores, in a storage,~~ Q&A information ~~representing~~ represents the contents of inquiries sent from the customer and the seller and the contents of responses to the inquiries, the inquiries regarding commodities to be sold and supports to be provided, and the order-reception subsystem provides the Q&A information stored in the storage in response to a request therefor.

18 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 17, wherein

said business management subsystem gathers statistical data based on the customer information of each of a plurality of customers and the customer order information, and reflects the statistical data to the Q&A information.

19 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein

the support request information includes information representing a request for collecting recyclable items including at least one of a used toner cartridge, a used toner container and a used paper.

20 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 19, wherein

said delivery subsystem arranges collection of used paper, in response to a support request for collecting used paper from the at customer when a used-paper collection box provided to the customer is filled with used paper.

21 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein the support request information includes information regarding a request for at least one of:

a service for delivering the a commodity to a place specified by the customer;
a service for unpacking the ordered commodity at a time of delivering the ordered commodity ordered;
a service for collecting an empty box that the customer does not need any more;
a service for delivering commodities which are repeatedly supplied to the customer on a FIFO basis;
a service for specifying a delivery date for delivering the commodity to be delivered;
a service for urgently delivering the ordered commodity; and
a service for periodically delivering a constant number of commodities specified by the customer.

22 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein said order-reception subsystem stores, in a storage in response to a registration operation of the seller, the customer information including information regarding a price of a commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by the seller, creates a purchase application form and a catalogue based on the stored customer information, and provides the customer with the created application form and catalogue.

23 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein said order-reception subsystem receives the customer order information from the customer through a telephone call or facsimile.

24 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, further including a network-order-reception subsystem which receives the customer order information sent from the customer through Internet.

25 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 24, wherein: said order-reception subsystem stores, in a storage in response to a customer registration operation of the seller, the customer information including information regarding a price of commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by the seller, and

wherein the customer information includes information representing that the customer is one who transmits the customer order information through the Internet.

26 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, wherein said order-reception subsystem assigns a delivery of the ordered commodity to a service person who can execute a maintenance service when it is determined that the commodity specified in the ordering information is to be delivered, and determines to execute the maintenance service at a time of delivering the commodity based on the customer information and customer order information, in a case where the customer has made the contract of the maintenance service for one of a plurality of apparatus including OA apparatuses.

27 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 15, further including a delivery subsystem which arranges delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information and to provide a support, and

wherein said delivery subsystem arranges delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information based on the customer order information, upon determination of the delivery of the commodity and providing of the support by said delivery subsystem, and instructs a distributor to perform a support when delivering the commodity in a case where the support is specified in the customer order information.

28 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 27, further including a stock database which manages stock information, and wherein:

said order-entry subsystem confirms whether there is a stock of a ordered commodity based on the stock information, and determines a delivery date for delivering the ordered commodity;

said order-reception subsystem sends order-reception confirmation information including both delivery-date information representing the determined delivery date and the customer order information in a facsimile form or e-mail form; and

said delivery subsystem arranges the delivery based on the delivery-date information and the customer order information.

29 (currently amended). An order-reception system for receiving and handling an order from a customer using at least one computer, said system comprising:

means for registering sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials and inquiry information to be displayed as Q&A information;

means for storing, in a sales-information database, BBS information to be posted on a BBS style page according to date and classification; the registered sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials according to date and classification; and the registered inquiry information to be displayed as the Q&A information according to date, context, and maker;

means for displaying the BBS information on the BBS style page;

means for displaying the sales-promotion materials;

means for receiving customer order information sent from the customer, said customer order information including customer information regarding the customer and at least one of ordering information representing contents of an order for a commodity ordered by the customer and support request information representing contents of a support request;

means for performing the order reception processing based on the received customer order information;

means for determining to deliver the commodity specified in the ordering information and to provide a support specified in the support request information, based on a result of the order reception processing;

means for confirming whether the commodity is delivered and the support is provided;

a customer-information database which stores the customer information including information regarding a price of a commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by a seller of the commodity and support; and

means for charging a price of the commodity specified in the ordering information and a cost of the support specified in the support request information based on the customer information.

30 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, further including:

means for confirming whether there is a stock of the commodity specified in the ordering information, based on stock information;

means for determining a delivery date for delivering the ordered commodity; and

means for sending order-reception confirmation information including both delivery-date information representing the determined delivery date and the customer order information, in a facsimile form or e-mail form.

31 (currently amended). The order-reception system according to claim 29, ~~further including~~ wherein:

~~means for storing, in a storage, the Q&A information representing~~ represents contents of inquiries sent from the customer and the seller and contents of responses to the inquiries, the inquiries regarding commodities to be sold and supports to be provided; and further including the step of

~~means for providing the Q&A information stored in the storage~~ sales-information database, in response to a request therefor.

32 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 31, further including means for gathering statistical data based on the customer information and customer order information of each of a plurality of customers, and reflecting the statistical data to the Q&A information.

33 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, wherein the support request information includes information regarding a request for collecting recyclable items including at least one of a used cartridge, a used toner container and used paper.

34 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 33, further including means for arranging collection of used paper, in response to a support request for collecting used paper from the customer when a used-paper collection box provided to the customer is filled with used paper.

35 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, wherein the support request information includes information regarding a request for at least one of:

- a service for delivering the commodity to a place specified by the customer;
- a service for unpacking the commodity at a time of delivering the commodity ordered by the customer;
- a service for collecting an empty box that the customer does not need any more;

a service for delivering commodities which are repeatedly supplied to the customer on a FIFO basis;

a service for specifying a delivery date for delivering the commodity to be delivered;

a service for urgently delivering the ordered commodity; and

a service for periodically delivering a constant number of commodity specified by the customer.

36 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, further including:

means for registering, in response to a registration operation of the seller, the customer information including information regarding a price of a commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by the seller;

means for creating a purchase application form and a catalogue based on the stored customer information; and

means for providing the customer with the created application form and catalogue.

37 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, wherein

receiving means receives the customer order information through a telephone call or via facsimile.

38 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, further including

means for receiving the customer order information through Internet.

39 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 38, further including

means for registering, in response to a customer registration operation of the seller, the customer information including information regarding a price of commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of a support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by the seller,

wherein said means for registering the customer information includes, in the customer information, information representing that the customer is one who transmits the customer order information through the Internet.

40 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, wherein

said means for determining includes

means for assigning a delivery of the commodity to a service person who can execute a maintenance service when it is determined that the commodity specified in the ordering information is to be delivered, and determining to execute the maintenance service at a time of delivering the commodity, in a case where the customer has made a contract of the maintenance service for one of a plurality of apparatus including OA apparatuses, based on the customer information and customer order information.

41 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 29, further including:

means for arranging delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information based on the customer order information, upon determination of the delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information and the providing of the support; and

means for instructing a distributor to perform a support when delivering the commodity, in a case where the support is specified in the customer order information.

42 (original). The order-reception system according to claim 41, further including:

a stock database which stores stock information regarding commodities;

means for confirming whether there is a stock of the ordered commodity, based on the stock information;

means for determining a delivery date for delivering the ordered commodity;

means for sending, to the customer, order-reception confirmation information including delivery-date information representing the determined delivery date and the customer order information in a facsimile form or e-mail form; and

means for arranging the delivery of the ordered commodity based on the delivery-date information and customer order information.

43 (currently amended). A program product for controlling a computer to execute the following steps of:

registering sales-promotion information to be displayed as sales-promotion materials and inquiry information to be displayed as Q&A information;

storing, in a sales-information database comprising a storage, BBS information to be posted on a BBS style page according to date and classification; the registered sales-promotion information

to be displayed as sales-promotion materials according to date and classification; and the registered inquiry information to be displayed as the Q&A information according to date, context, and maker;

displaying the BBS information on the BBS style page;

displaying the sales-promotion materials;

receiving customer order information sent from a customer, the customer order information including customer information regarding the customer and at least one of ordering information representing contents of an order for a commodity ordered by the customer and support request information representing contents of a request for a support;

executing an order-reception processing based on the received customer order information;

determining to deliver the commodity specified in the ordering information and to provide the support specified in the support request information, based on a result of the order-reception processing;

confirming whether the commodity has been delivered and whether the support has been provided; and

charging a price of the commodity specified in the ordering information and a cost of the support specified in the support request information, based on the customer information including information regarding a price of each commodity purchased by the customer with high frequency and a cost of each support requested by the customer with high frequency, wherein the price and the cost are set by a seller of the commodity and support.

44 (currently amended). The program product according to claim 43, wherein the program controls a computer to execute further steps of:

arranging delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information based on the customer order information, upon determination of the delivery of the commodity specified in the ordering information and the providing of the support; and

instructing a distributor to perform the support when delivering the commodity, in a case where the support is specified in the customer order information.